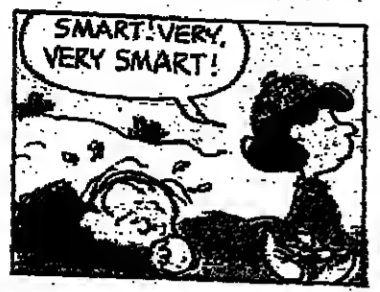


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**14** Sunday Comics  
**Peanuts**



**3**  
 Hebrew press review



**16** Sports  
 Chelsea in a bind

**INDEX**

Business	.....12
Comics	.....14
Health	.....11
Movies, TV, Crossword	.....15
Opinion	.....8
Sports	.....16

## Hizbullah: Deal for Ilya's body possible soon

**By DAVID RUDGE**

An exchange deal for the remains of naval commando Itamar Ilya could be achieved within the next two weeks, a leading Hizbullah official has said.

The statement followed the release on Friday of two detainees suspected of collaborating with Hizbullah, from the El-Khuyam jail in south Lebanon. The men, both suffering from health problems, were released in an apparent goodwill gesture for the upcoming Moslem fasting month of Ramadan.

Omar Ahmed, 40, who has a kidney ailment, had been detained for more than 10 years, and Shawki Nasrallah, 38, who was held for five months, were handed over to the International Red Cross and taken to a hospital in the port city of Sidon.

Nasrallah, apparently no relation to Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, was said to suffer from severe migraine attacks.

Hizbullah official Abdallah Kassir was quoted by news agencies after the release as saying that an exchange deal was imminent and could be reached within two weeks.

His comments followed reports last week that progress had been made in negotiations for a swap that would lead to the return of Ilya's remains.

Eleven naval commandos and an IDF doctor were killed in an abortive raid near Ansariya village between Tyre and Sidon in September, in which Ilya's body was not recovered. Since the incident, Israel has been negotiating with Lebanon through third parties, primarily the Red Cross, to secure Ilya's remains.

Israel is holding the remains of several Lebanese gunmen, including the body of Hadi Nasrallah, son of the Hizbullah leader, who was killed in a clash with IDF troops in south Lebanon, also in September.

Hizbullah is seeking the release of Lebanese held in Israel and the security zone, as well as bodies of gunmen, in return for Ilya's remains.

According to Israeli officials, progress has been made in negotiations for an exchange deal, although the price has not yet been agreed.

## Cabinet meets over maps



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat (left) walks with US Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk after their meeting at Arafat's Gaza office yesterday. Their talk was in preparation for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's separate meetings planned for this week with Arafat and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. (AP)

## Mordechai, Sharon to present separate pullback outlines

**By JAY BUSHINSKY, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies**

The cabinet is to consider two proposed maps of the IDF's next West Bank redeployment, as well as a set of conditions for implementing it, at a day-long meeting today aimed at giving Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu geographical guidelines for presentation to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

But Netanyahu, who is scheduled to meet Albright in Paris on Thursday, will not be able to display a map representing a cabinet consensus on a further redeployment, sources said.

Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, and other officials, including the director-general of the Public Works Department.

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said that Mordechai is to present the cabinet today with various second-redeployment options, which have been worked and reworked by the IDF and defense establishment.

According to Benayahu, two maps have been prepared: one drawing military red lines and the other focusing on "national interests."

He dismissed reports on Israel Radio on Friday that said the defense minister was proposing a 13 percent withdrawal.

"The defense establishment has prepared a number of options for the second withdrawal, but none of them are as large as 13%," Benayahu said.

The National Religious Party ministers were instructed by their Knesset faction to make the IDF withdrawal hinge on the PA's fulfillment of a detailed list of prior commitments. They will seek a cabinet vote on a draft resolution to this effect.

It states that as long as the PA does not start implementing these measures, "above all, the extradition of murderers and terrorists," the government will not make any decision about the scope or timing of the next IDF pullback.

With reference to a final-status agreement with the PA, the NRP resolution stipulates that the Palestinians be granted "self rule," but not statehood, and with no "right of return" for Arab refugees west of the Jordan River. It also calls for exclusive Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem as well as sovereignty over the Etzion Bloc, the Ma'aleh Adumim region, Givat Ze'ev, and Betar.

Another NRP condition is an end to PLO activity in Jerusalem and closure of its institutions in the city.

Indyk engaged in a brief debate with Arafat after his meeting with him in Gaza. The Palestinian leader triggered it by saying, "There is continuous pressure from the American side and that Albright's meetings [with Netanyahu and him] last week were 'part of this pressure.'"

To this, Indyk retorted: "Pressure is not a word that is in the American vocabulary. We are seeking to encourage both sides."

The assistant secretary also met with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky at breakfast and conferred afterward with Sharon.

Government officials observed that Indyk's apparent role of a "lobbyist" left some room for dissatisfaction.

### Presidents' Conference sends letter to Clinton, Page 2

Despite the seven hours allocated to the cabinet session and the possibility of a follow-up before his departure for Europe on Wednesday, they see little chance the demarcation process will be completed by then.

In an intensive effort to nudge the Israeli and Palestinian sides toward an early agreement on the territorial issue, US Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk conferred separately yesterday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as with several cabinet members.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's proposed map not only includes two security zones - one along the Jordan River and one along the Green Line - but also a new axis road from Arad through Ma'aleh Adumim and along the Allon Route northward to the Beit She'an Valley.

This strategic passageway, to be called Highway 80, which traverses the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley, would be included in a 20-km wide security zone. Sharon also will demand that Israel retain control of the West Bank's water sources.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will submit a separate map for the cabinet's consideration, based on topographical and strategic evaluations made at the General Staff level.

On Friday, Mordechai and Sharon made a helicopter tour of the Judean Desert in for a bird's-eye view of redeployment possibilities. Accompanying the two ministers were Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, OC

## Health officials expect NIS150m. drug allocation

**By JUDY SEGEL**

Senior Health Ministry officials were last night "very tense but guardedly optimistic" that the cabinet this morning would approve the allocation of NIS 150 million to include 14 vital drugs in the basket of health services covered by the National Health Insurance Law.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza spoke by telephone twice on Friday; the premier promised Matza that money for the life-saving medications - for patients with cancer, AIDS, diabetes and other chronic diseases - would be found.

However, ministry officials are concerned that the Treasury will try to evade allocating extra money by demanding that the amount be deducted from the ministry's regular budget for hospitals and other services, or from the health funds.

Ministry officials are also anxious about finding funds to cover a NIS 1.3 billion health system deficit. Either the Finance Ministry will fill this gap using the

difference between the cost of the basket of health services and income from the health tax, or the public may have to be charged to cover the costs.

Matza said he will insist that money for the vital drugs be discussed as a first item on the agenda, before any debate about the proposed withdrawal in the territories. He said he would also try to push for a discussion of the health budget deficit.

The Finance Ministry said the cabinet should be aware that any excess spending could mean that the government would not meet its 1998 budget deficit target of NIS 2.3 billion.

The health funds should cut elsewhere if extra money is put toward medicines, said Estie Appelbaum, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's media adviser.

The Knesset will vote on the entire budget package by December 31. The Finance Ministry and Prime Minister's Office are keen to ensure a tight rein is kept on fiscal policy.

David Harris contributed to this report

## Arafat accuses Israel of planning to remove al-Aksa

**By JAY BUSHINSKY**

Government officials are concerned about Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's allegations that Israel plans to remove al-Aksa Mosque and build a third temple.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, cited excerpts of Arafat's speech to the Islamic summit in Teheran last week that he considered particularly offensive. They included this passage:

"I am ringing the bell of danger to warn against the Jewish plan to build the Temple of Solomon in the place where today stands al-Aksa Mosque, after removing the mosque."

Arafat repeatedly deplored "the danger of invasive Judaization" which, he said, aims at eliminating Jerusalem's Islamic and Arab identity.

He declared that peace will not be achieved without "occupied Jerusalem being returned to its legitimate owners as capital of an independent Palestinian state." The PA chairman justified this on the grounds that Jerusalem is "a Palestinian, Arab, Moslem, Christian and world city."

See ARAFAT, Page 2

## Iraq executes hundreds in 'prison cleaning campaign'

**By JAY BUSHINSKY**

A wave of executions in Iraq has reportedly taken the lives of more than 800 political prisoners, according to information transmitted by the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation from its base in the northern city of Arbil, in the country's UN-controlled sector.

"The death toll is expected to increase as the executions are still continuing," the broadcast said.

Among those said to have been put to death are the express orders of President Saddam Hussein's son, Qusay, were 30 members of the Iraqi National Congress, the main opposition group.

The executions were said to be part of a "prison cleaning campaign" initiated by Qusay as head of Iraq's Special Security Organization.

Those killed in the Abu Ghraib prison were shot and those put to death at Radwaniyah prison near Baghdad were electrocuted, the IBC said.

It linked the executions to the crisis over renewed activity of the UN inspection team searching for unconventional weapons in Iraq.

Observers note that Saddam increases repression when he feels triumphant, implying that the Iraqi leader believes he has gained the upper hand in the confrontation with the US and Great Britain.

In a statement issued in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah, the Iraqi National Congress said it has "an initial list of 154 names of those executed."

Reuters adds:

Jordan's King Hussein on Friday attacked Iraq for hanging four of his citizens last week, a move which pushed Baghdad's diplomatic presence in the country.

"This is a vile crime," state television showed Hussein saying, in the first public remarks since Iraq soured relations with its neighbor by hanging the four Jordanians last Monday for smuggling car parts.

## Netanyahu cancels 'Yediot' subscription

**By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies**

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu canceled his subscription to *Yediot Aharonot* over the weekend, following a report on his wife Sara in its Friday edition, charging that she abuses her staff and interferes in his work.

Netanyahu sent a sharp letter of protest to *Yediot* publisher Arnon Mozes and editor Alon Shalev, saying the report "crossed all lines of decency, humanity, and morality."

"In general, I have kept silent about the repeated attacks on my family in the last year and a half, but this evil assault is unprecedented. Its aim is to destroy her respect as a human being through character assassination," Netanyahu wrote.

He concluded: "Now I have to take the most basic step available to a citizen in a democratic society. I hereby announce the cancellation of my subscription to *Yediot*

*Aharonot*."

*Yediot* stood by its report, saying in response: "We regret the prime minister chose not to relate substantively in his letter to the facts that were revealed in the *Yediot Aharonot* investigation."

The statement said that the report dealt with "Mrs. Netanyahu's conduct in the public arena, the unaudited expenditure of public funds, and the inappropriate behavior towards state employees."

It added that the report had been published after a thorough investigation of the facts, "which up until now have not been denied by Mrs. Netanyahu or a member of her office."

For her part, Sara Netanyahu said Friday that there has been an outpouring of support for her following the *Yediot* article.

She came out of her home and spoke to reporters as she greeted a man and his two daughters who



Sara Netanyahu (AP)

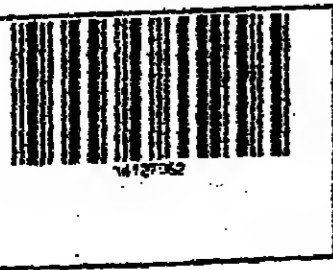
treated her staff, once threatened to call the police on her husband, and ordered bodyguards to clean up her children's spilled food.

It quoted housekeeper Rachel Ya'acov, who worked for years in the homes of Israeli premiers, as saying Sara Netanyahu was a difficult boss who had once thrown newly polished shoes at her, claiming she had ruined them.

The paper also said Netanyahu takes whatever gifts she can and that once, troubled by security considerations preventing her accepting a bottle of wine, she suggested her staffers taste the wine to make sure it wasn't poisoned.

*Yediot* said Netanyahu had not only alienated her husband's old friends, but his daughter by his first marriage as well. Two years ago, she asked his daughter, Noa, not to call him "Dad" in front of her sons, because "they don't know they have a sister."

See CABINET, Page 2





# Yishai praises Pollard for 'divine devotion'

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

In a letter to Jonathan Pollard published Friday, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai praised the convicted spy for working with "divine devotion" for Israel's security.

Yishai sent the letter through Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who plans to visit Pollard on Tuesday as part of a new campaign to win his release.

"You deserve to be pardoned, to immigrate to Israel, the beloved land whose security you worked for with such divine devotion," Yishai wrote, according to a ministry statement.

Yishai said the government should "do all that is possible so that you will see the light of the sun, feel the freedom and come to Israel." Pollard, a former US naval analyst, is serving a life sentence for passing US military secrets to Israel in the mid-1980s. In October, Pollard, who received Israeli citizenship in July 1996, petitioned the High Court of Justice to force the government to take responsibility for his espionage and recognize him as an agent of the state. The court has not yet ruled.

Pollard has complained that Israel abandoned him and that Israeli leaders have not honored promises to push for his release. Israel has maintained that Pollard passed secret US military documents to Israel without official sanction.

US President Bill Clinton rejected a clemency plea by Pollard in

1996, citing the enormity of his crime, his lack of remorse, and the damage he caused to US security. *Ha'aretz* questioned Friday why an attempt has been made to swap an Israeli convicted of spying for the US in the 1980s for Pollard.

Former IDF Intelligence major Yosef Amit was arrested in 1986 and admitted he provided the CIA with classified military documents. Amit was convicted in April 1987 and sentenced to 12 years in jail, *Ha'aretz* said, and confirmed foreign reports that he had been released in 1995.

Following the report, Labor MK Ophir Pines yesterday demanded the government reach an agreement for the release of Pollard. Amit was arrested in March 1986, four months after Pollard's arrest in the US. Pines said that former prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, who were in power at the time but did not demand a prisoner exchange, "have questions to answer and explanations to make concerning their strange behavior in this case."

Pines said the Netanyahu government has a chance to rectify the mistakes of its predecessors. "It must insist on the principle of reciprocity in its relationship with the US. It must demand Pollard be released immediately," said Pines.

"The US cannot continue to relate to Pollard as a dangerous criminal who cannot be released, when today everybody knows that at the same time that Pollard operated and was caught, the US was not averse to dealing in espionage on Israel."



**Thirty years of PFLP**  
Palestinian youths wave flags during a rally in the Gaza Strip on Friday marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. (Reuters)

## NEWS in brief

### Histadrut to pay striking Kitan workers

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz on Friday promised the 320 striking workers of the Kitan textile plant in Upper Nazareth that the labor federation would pay their salaries as long as their struggle to keep the plant open continues.

Peretz, who ate Shabbat dinner with the workers and their families, accompanied by Upper Nazareth Mayor Menabem Ariav, told them the wages would be paid from the Histadrut strike fund.

Peretz also told the workers he would introduce a bill to the Knesset today that would require employers to announce factory closings half a year in advance. Ariav called for a boycott of Kitan products. *Inim*

### Kahalani tells Vanunu: You're still a threat

In an angry meeting at Ashkelon told nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu he still poses a threat to state security and would remain in solitary confinement, aide Rafi Levy confirmed Friday.

Vanunu, who spilled Israel's nuclear secrets in 1986, is serving an 18-year sentence for treason.

According to *Ma'ariv*, during a tour of the prison, Kahalani told Vanunu: "I fought on the battlefield to protect you - and you jeopardized the security of my children and the state. You must pay for that."

Vanunu, 43, asked to be placed in a cell with Palestinian security prisoners, a request Kahalani turned down. *AP*

### Edelstein traveling to Russia

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is to travel to Russia tomorrow for five days, during which time he will sign a cooperation agreement with the Russian immigration service.

Edelstein is also to hold talks regarding tourism from Russia expected in 2000, and plans to meet with the mayor of Moscow and Russian church officials on this matter. He is to also meet leaders of the Russian Jewish community. *Arveh Dean Cohen*

### Internal SPNI struggle heats up

The struggle for control of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel is heating up prior to its general annual meeting and elections next month. Last week, a group of veteran members announced the establishment of a group called "The Friends of the SPNI," headed by SPNI Chairman of the Board Yoav Sagi and SPNI founder member and environmentalist Azaria Alon.

It declared one of its aims is to thwart a takeover by the break-away SPNI Reconnaissance Groups, led by Israel Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai.

The reconnaissance groups have accused the current executive of neglecting educational efforts while the executive accuses Hoter-Yishai of being involved in lucrative land development projects. SPNI director-general Eytan Gadalyzon said over the weekend that Hoter-Yishai wants control of the group as a way of preventing SPNI objections to the projects. Hoter-Yishai rejected the charge and said there is no conflict of interests involved. *Liav Collins*

### Birth dates can be more easily inserted on ID

Those whose identity cards only bear the year of their births, and have 00.00 written where the month and day should appear, can now file an affidavit with the ministry via a lawyer or court, to allow them to have the additional information entered. Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa announced last week. *Arveh Dean Cohen*

### Int'l English radio begins broadcasts here

World Radio Network's English-language service, WRNI, will begin nightly broadcasts in the Middle East tomorrow on 95.4 on the AM band, from 22:25 local time until 06:30.

The London-based network launched the service in 1993, and it has listeners in over 60 countries. It will be audible here, in Lebanon, and Cyprus, and in much of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

The service includes original news programming, and news programs from various countries, including the US, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Sweden, and Finland. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

### Under pressure

A few days before his expected meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who aims to get a commitment on the scope of the concessions that Israel is willing to make to the Palestinians, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under pressure both from without and from within. The Hebrew press analyzed the forces working on Netanyahu.

**Yediot Aharonot's** Orly Azulai-Katz writes that the Clinton government has done extensive research regarding the American Jews' opinion on whether Netanyahu should be pressured into implementing the Oslo agreements.

According to a poll conducted by the Democratic Party, more than 60% of the Jews support pressing Netanyahu into making the concessions.

"Clinton and Vice President Al Gore need the Jews...and that is one of the reasons that they decided to continue this policy."

"There is no doubt that the source of the American pressure lies in the government's feeling that there are some Israeli ministers who tend to agree to a big 'redemption', writes *Hatzofeh's* B.S. Noga, who adds that the government should not feel it is forced to comply because eventually, the Americans will learn to accept any Israeli decision.

"The relationship with the two women in his life is not what they seem," writes *Ha'aretz's* Yoel Marcus, referring to both Sara Netanyahu and Albright.

Marcus addresses *Yediot Aharonot's* article on the caprice of the first lady and the growing pressure of the secretary of state for a generous redeployment.

"Whether Sara's behavior and whims damage Bibi's functioning as a prime minister, only he can answer, but the influence of the other woman on him personally, on his functioning and on the entire country, is unequivocal."

### Lone wolf

The Labor Party convention opened the door to attacks on party leader Ehud Barak, and the press ponders the reasons. In her article, "The Big Democroator," *Ma'ariv's* Sima Kadmon writes that although Barak's intentions are good, somehow he manages to miss the target. "Inside this sophisticated, cautious and suspicious man, hides an inexperienced man," she claims, adding that "even for a person who learns as fast as he does, inside the political system it is difficult to anticipate every response."

Kadmon writes that within the party there is a "wish to shake him, not to rebel against him."

According to *Ha'aretz's* Lily Galili, Barak gives the party the impression that he needs no one, "and therefore threatens their future." She adds that "in his growing loneliness, he reminds people more and more of Bibi Netanyahu."

*Hatzofeh's* Moshe Ishon states that "there is no barrier that eliminates Barak's motivation to reach the top, but until now, he has not managed to take off," adding that his adversaries in his own party claim that "he is a nationalist disguising himself as a Leftist."

## UN affirms Palestinians' right to self-determination

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The UN General Assembly, wrapping up its annual debate on the "question of Palestine," voted 160-2 on Friday to reaffirm the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. Only Israel and the US cast negative votes.

The assembly's votes, as in years past, were overwhelmingly against Israel, with one major exception: the Palestinians were rebuffed in a procedural battle last week, in their effort to upgrade their UN status from observers to nearly that of a state.

In a series of resolutions last week, the assembly again demanded a halt to construction at Har Homa, which the UN calls Jabal Abu Ghneim. It voted by crushing majorities to continue support for the Division for Palestinian Rights, a unit within the UN Secretariat, as well as for the Committee on the

Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The US and Israel have argued that these groups are anachronistic and that they consume scarce funds that could be put to humanitarian purposes.

In a resolution on the "peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine," the assembly called on concerned parties, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, and the international community to bring the peace process back on track and ensure its success. The vote was 155-2 (Israel, US), with three abstentions.

The assembly passed a resolution 148-1 (Israel) saying that Israel's imposition of its laws, jurisdiction, and administration on Jerusalem was illegal. Nine states, including the US, abstained. A resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from the "Syrian Golan" was adopted 92-2 (Israel, US). Sixty-five states abstained.

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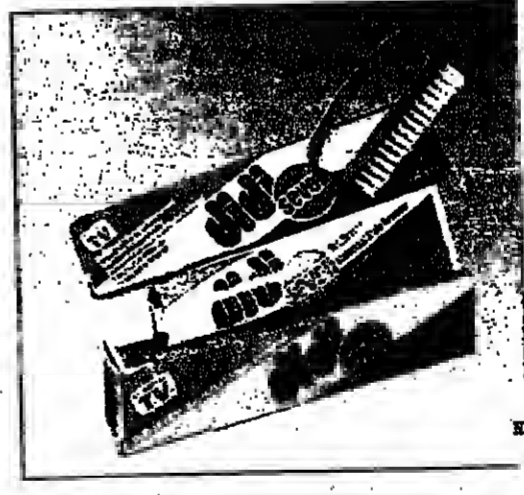
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# EU expansion excludes Turkey

LUXEMBOURG - The European Union welcomed 11 prospective new members yesterday in the biggest expansion project in its 40-year history.

Turkey, excluded from that group and at best a long-odds bet for EU membership, was however invited to join the candidates and current EU members at a ceremony in Britain next spring to launch the enlargement process.

EU leaders ending a two-day EU summit in Luxembourg urged Ankara not to turn away from Europe even though it could be decades before the predominantly Moslem, but secular state, is ready to join the western bloc.

The summit agreed to open the 15-nation bloc's doors to six new

members early next century, while reassuring five other ex-Soviet satellites that they, too, could begin the long road to EU membership, though at a slower pace.

"After the summit of Luxembourg we can speak out simply about the enlargement, but the reunification of Europe," said Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, whose country is the biggest of the fast-track applicants.

"For a man of my generation this is the real end of the Second World War," he said, adding: "It's good news for Poland and good news for Europe." Full accession talks will begin in spring with Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus.

The EU will at the same time

speed up preparations for accession talks later for five other east European states - Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia.

"It's the decisive event in the history of Europe after the Second World War," German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a closing news conference, noting that, post-enlargement, Germany would be surrounded by its EU partners.

"The unification of Europe has taken an important step forward," added French President Jacques Chirac.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair appealed to Turkey to accept the summit's invitation to join a European Conference and said there was strong support "all

round the table" that Turkey would one day join the EU.

For Turkey, membership might still be decades away, said summit chairman, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker on Friday. "It cannot be that a country where torture is still practiced has a place at the European Union table," Juncker declared.

To join the EU, candidates must meet strict conditions of democracy, human rights and economic openness. While the EU's eastern neighbors have moved away from communism to meet these requirements, the EU has grave doubts about the Turkish military's interference in politics and its dubious human rights record.

(News agencies)

# EU leaders resolve currency squabble

LUXEMBOURG (AP) - The European Union ended months of squabbling with an agreement on who should have a say in economic policy involving the new single currency that comes into effect a year from now.

After five hours of difficult discussion on the opening day of their two-day EU summit in this minuscule European duchy, the presidents and prime ministers struck a deal Friday that requires a lot of good faith all around. It also dealt British Prime Minister Tony Blair his first euro-setback.

"In simplifying the question we

arrived at a simple solution," said French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

At issue were plans to create a new council to coordinate monetary policy among countries who sign up for the single currency. The 11 probable "ins" thought only they should be on the council and make decisions. The four "outs" differed strongly.

Britain, Sweden, Denmark plan to opt out of the single currency when it is launched Jan. 1, 1999, and Greece is not expected to meet the economic criteria for membership. But these countries did not

want to be shut out of monetary policy making, which they felt would drive a wedge in the union.

The four argued that many of the decisions involving the euro have a wider impact and consequently the "outs" should have a say, even though they are not actually participating in the European Monetary Union.

The 11 agreed in principle, but the central question was the right of the "ins" to decide when the "outs" should be present and whether the "outs" had a right to be present or should be involved only on invitation.

# Shelter sought for refugees of latest Rwanda massacre

By BRENNAN LINSLEY

GISENYI, Rwanda (AP) - The UN refugee agency tried to find new shelter for the remaining Tutsi refugees at a camp where Hutu rebels killed at least 234 people.

UN aid workers and government soldiers were still counting bodies at Mudende camp in northwestern Rwanda, a day after the attackers set fire to 200 huts and used machetes, hand grenades and guns against the refugees.

The death of three wounded Friday brought the death toll to 234; it could still rise, said Paula Ghedini, spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency.

Another 227 wounded were hospitalized in Gisenyi, about 100 kilometers northwest of Kigali. Most were in serious condition with severe head wounds caused

by machetes or nail-studded clubs, Ghedini said.

In Geneva, a spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner on Refugees said the attack was the worst to date on a refugee camp in Rwanda.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in New York that he was "profoundly shocked" by the slaughter of "defenseless refugees, mostly women and children."

"It is most distressing that after almost four years, prospects for peace, stability and national reconciliation remain dim and that efforts to find lasting solutions in Rwanda and the region have not been successful," UN spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt said.

A regional military official said Friday that the Hutu rebels who attacked the camp first hit a nearby jail, and Rwandan government troops killed an undetermined

number of inmates and attackers. But they were taken by surprise when the attackers moved on to the camp.

The attacks coincided with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's one-day visit to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, where she talked with government leaders and praised their efforts at reconciliation between Hutus and minority Tutsis.

News of the attack came after she left.

Military spokesman Richard Sizehera said that President Clinton's roving ambassador for war crimes, David Scheffer, was expected in Gisenyi yesterday to survey the devastated camp.

"It seems some of the same people who perpetuated the genocide are committing these actions," Albright said while in neighboring Congo.



**Massacre remembered**  
Nationalist Chinese army veterans in Taipei shout as they set on fire a dummy coffin containing an effigy of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday, marking 60 years since Japanese soldiers massacred tens of thousands of Chinese in the city of Nanjing. (AP)

# Astronauts to celebrate Hanukka aboard Mir

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - American astronaut David Wolf and his Russian crewmates aboard the Mir space station plan to celebrate the holidays in style - even if they can't toast with champagne.

Wolf, who is Jewish, received a menorah as a Hanukka gift from his sister. The menorah and gelt, holiday candy that looks like coins, were delivered by a Russian supply ship in October.

"We'll celebrate in the traditional way," Wolf said Friday.

"We'll enjoy the light show on the Earth instead of our own Christmas lights. Actually, our coosles here look a lot like Christmas lights a lot of the time."

Added commander Anatoly Solovoyov: "There is no, appear-

ly, champagne here for us to celebrate the New Year, although there is, of course, the desire."

Alcohol is banned from US-based ships, but the Russians are more lenient. There have even been confirmed reports in the past about vodka on board Mir.

More than anything, Wolf said he craves "those sweet potatoes with the marshmallows on top that my mom makes." He said he'd also like a good pizza.

The 41-year-old doctor and engineer assured reporters that he feels extremely good after nearly three months in space - better than he would on Earth, in fact.

"It's getting better and better although I miss home more and more," he said.

Wolf said he feels safe aboard Mir and noted that the station has been running well since his arrival in late September.

That's allowed him to devote most of his time to science work, in particular an experiment to grow three-dimensional kidney and nerve tissue.

Earlier in the year, there were problems galore aboard Mir including a fire in February, a cargo-ship collision in June, computer breakdowns, cooling-system leaks and oxygen-generator malfunctions.

"You know how your car goes in cycles? A lot of things break, you fix a lot of things and it runs real great for a while. I think we're probably seeing a cycle like that," Wolf said.

Wolf's replacement, NASA astronaut Andrew Thomas, is scheduled to arrive on Mir in late January aboard space shuttle Endeavour. He will be the last American to live on the Russian station.

# Amazon rain forest shrinking faster than believed

By MICHAEL ASTOR

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - No one disputes that the Amazon rain forest is shrinking, but just how fast it's disappearing is a mystery - and a political hot potato in Brazil.

A new report by a congressional committee investigating foreign logging companies says the Amazon is vanishing at a rate of 52,000 square kilometers a year. That's more than three times the

rate of 1994, the last year for which official figures are available.

About 12 percent of the 5.2 million square kilometer wilderness is already gone. Scientists say the loss - mainly from wildfires and logging - adds to the greenhouse effect that is believed to cause global warming.

"If nothing is done, the entire Amazon will be gone within 50 years," said the 110-page report's author, Rep. Gilney Vianna of the leftist Worker's Party in the

Amazon state of Mato Grosso.

Although the numbers are only estimates, it's hard for the government to refute them without figures of its own. And that's another problem, because the official numbers have been under wraps for nearly three years.

The government had promised to release its figures December 1. They were withheld after Eduardo Martins, president of Brazil's Environmental Protection Agency, asked for more data on the average size of deforested areas and the types of vegetation affected.

The increase means the area of destruction has expanded since then by 317,389 square km. - an area roughly the size of Italy.

The government relies solely on satellite images in compiling its figures. Vianna's report, released Wednesday, arrives at substantially higher figures by including estimates on the cutting of lots smaller than the 64-dunam minimum measurable by the satellite photos.

"I think Vianna's figure should be pretty accurate, because he has taken into consideration other forms of deforestation that don't show up in the satellite photos," said Gustavo Fonseca, president of Cooservacao Internacional Brazil.

Vianna has called for a 10-year moratorium on cutting and burning in the Amazon.

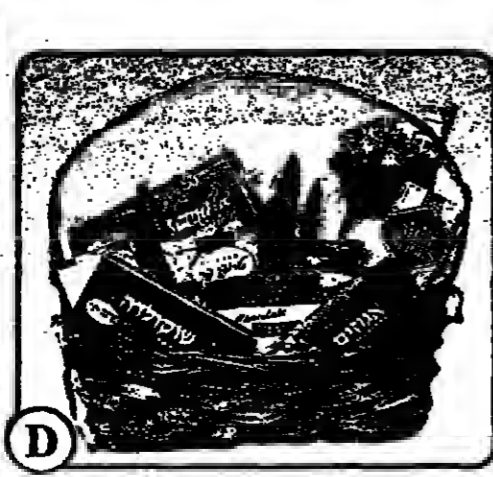
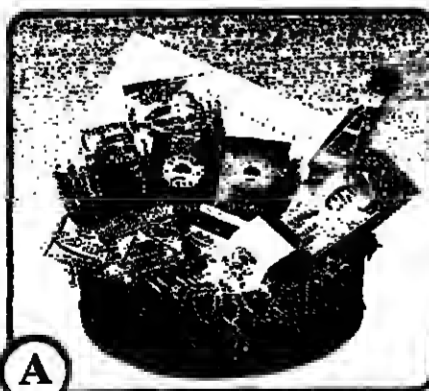
"We need the moratorium because the government has no coherent policy in the Amazon," he said. "Seventy percent of the burnings are authorized by the government and so is the vast majority of the deforestation."

Determining the extent of deforestation is the job of the government's National Space Research Institute.

At its headquarters in Sao Jose

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  - D) Christmas Greetings NIS 265/ \$75**  
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Kosher

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סקנא מן הארץ

# Fire disrupts flights from Heathrow

LONDON (Reuters) - Some flights from London's Heathrow airport were still delayed yesterday following a fire that broke out in the early hours of Friday morning, airport officials said.

The main problems were due to airplanes being in the wrong place because their flights had been canceled after the fire.

"The airport is operating to timetable, we have a near normal pattern of flights," a spokeswoman said. "If there are any delays, it's because a few aircraft are in the wrong place having had to stay on the ground yesterday."

She said the volume of passenger traffic was heavier than usual for a Saturday because of the number of people whose flights were delayed from Friday.

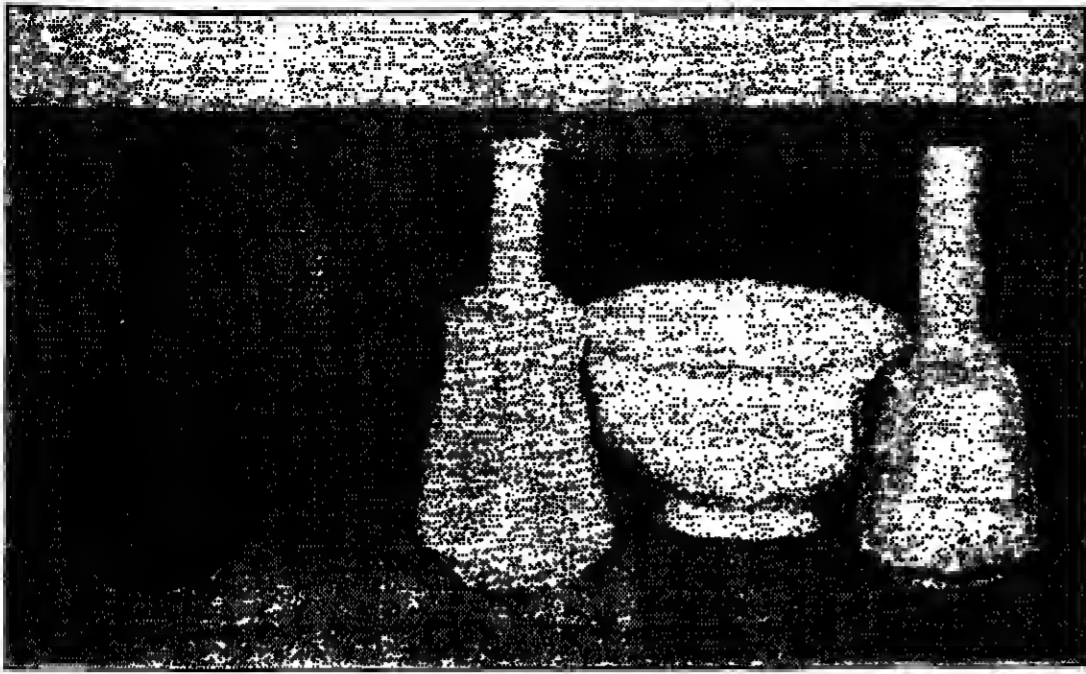
The fire, which broke out in a burger bar, caused the cancellation of 307 flights, two-thirds of them British Airways services. The terminal had been due to handle 600 flights on Friday, carrying some 70,000 passengers.

The fire damage is expected to cost thousands of pounds to repair, although safety experts said further destruction had been averted by a special fireproof membrane in the terminal roof which curbed the spread of the blaze.









Giorgio Morandi: Still Life, oils, 1954 which doubled its estimate to reach £243,500 at Sotheby's London.



The two loves of Jewish law student Edith Hahn, who helped her survive inside the Third Reich. Werner Vetter, (left) the Nazi party member who married her knowing she was Jewish and had false papers. Edith's true love was Dr. Joseph Rosenfeld (center) of Vienna, who helped her with food and shelter and who preserved all her letters and documents. (AP)

## Survivor buys archive for Holocaust Museum

The letters and personal papers of prewar Viennese Jewish law student Edith Hahn, which document her survival inside Hitler's Third Reich and her wartime marriage to a Nazi party member, described in this column last week, sold for £100,500 at Sotheby's London sale of documents on December 5. Most of the wartime correspondence was between Dr. Hahn and her first love, Dr. Joseph Rosenfeld.

Hahn has lived in Israel for more than a decade. Her archive, offered for sale by her London-born daughter, more than tripled its best estimate. It was bought by an American businessman, Dalck Feith, and his colleague Drew Lewis, who plan to donate it for permanent display at the Holocaust Museum in Washington. As a boy, Feith was also hunted by the Nazis and managed to survive, but his parents, four sisters and three brothers were killed.

A SALE of Old Masters paintings at Sotheby's London last week broke an eight-year-old record for a single session in this field, reaching £28.6m. Top prices were achieved by two pairs of Venetian scenes by Canaletto, which attracted spirited phone bidding from around the world. The first pair topped its best estimate at £3.85m, while the second pair sold for over £5m. (Best estimate £4m.)

Individual auction records were also set by a Salomon van Ruysdael (£2.3m); David Teniers the Younger (£1.1m); Isaac van Ostade (£2.2m); and Pieter Breughel the Younger (£1.98m). A very handsome Van Dyck of Prince Charles Louis was sold below its lowest estimate at

### AT THE AUCTIONS

£771,500. Of the 95 paintings, only 17 failed to reach their reserve. In a jittery financial world, top quality canvases by established historical names appear increasingly gilt-edged.

THE NEW YORK sale by Sotheby's of American (not contemporary) paintings December 5 also achieved an auction record in this field with a total of \$43.65m. Bidding was energetic for John Singer Sargent's *In the Garden, Corfu*, which went up to \$8.3m. A similar sum was achieved by a group of five other Sargent oils. A Sante Fe gallery paid a record \$3.6m for Georgia O'Keefe's major oil, *From the Plains*, three times its best estimate. Another record was set for Stuart Davis when his proto-Pop Art *Odol* reached \$2.44m, double its best estimate. Frederic Remington's bronze, *The Wicked Pony* achieved an expected \$2.7m, while Edward Hopper's first lighthouse oil just topped its best estimate at \$1.26m. A group of 21 naive drawings by the late one-time slave Bill Traylor went well over its estimate at \$777,700.

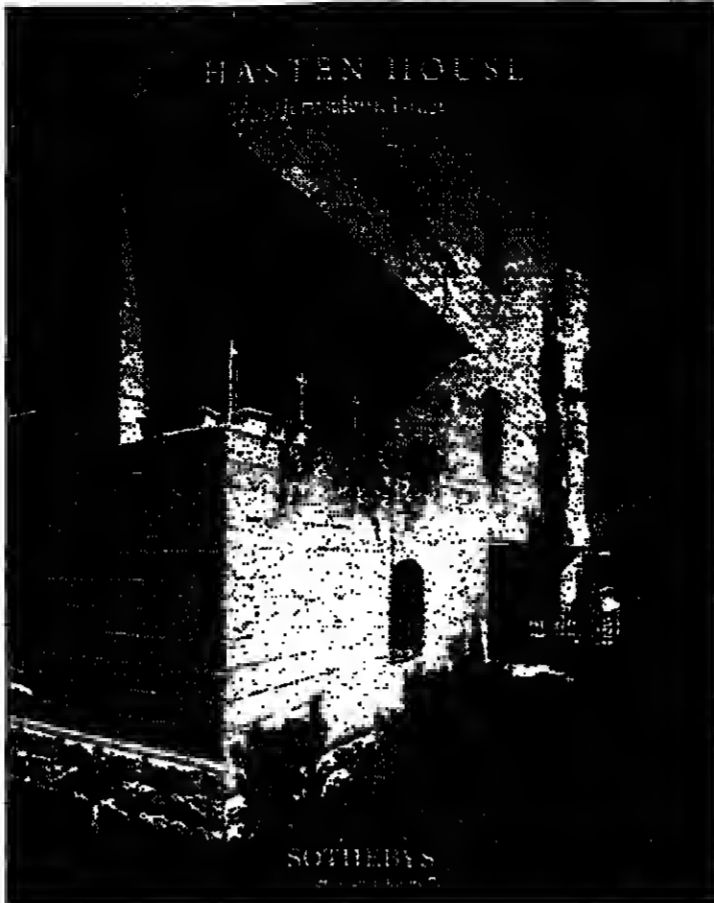
THE WORKING manuscript for two late clarinet sonatas, the most important Brahms manuscript ever to come on the market, was sold at Sotheby's in London this month for a world auction record of £441,500. It was bought by a London dealer. As reported earlier, the sonatas were written for the

greatest clarinetist of the day, Richard Mühlfeld, who worked on the manuscript with Brahms and suggested a number of the clearly marked revisions.

AN ISRAELI mansion is featured for the first time by Sotheby's International Realty and is the subject of a special color brochure. The Hasten House near Mount Herzl and the Jerusalem Forest, built in 1988 for an American banking family, has 16 fully air-conditioned rooms, four kitchens and nine bathrooms and is fully furnished. All doors and windows have electrically operated shutters. The first, second and third floors have gardens, and there is an elevator. An audio-visual monitor controls access to all doors. The local agent is Anglo-Saxon. Viewing and financial details are strictly by appointment.

THE FINEST privately-held group of works by the late Italian "metaphysical" painter Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964), all from the Jose Luiz and Beatriz Plaza Collection, was a sellout at Sotheby's London last Tuesday. The 27 small works sold for £6.73m, more than double their estimate. A still life of bread and fruit went for a record £793,500 (\$1.3m). The works were purchased by German, French, Japanese and American bidders.

A lifelong resident of Bologna, where he first studied and later taught, Morandi developed one of the most gentle but idiosyncratic signature styles in the history of 20th-century painting, particularly notable in his tabletop still life, in which he used the same family of objects over and over again but with-



View of the Hasten House, a luxurious 16-room multi-apartment family mansion in Jerusalem offered by Sotheby's International Realty, through Anglo-Saxon. Estimate on request.



An Attic Black-Figure Neck-Amphora circa 510-500 BCE, to be sold at Christie's New York sale of antiquities this Thursday (\$50,000-\$70,000)

out ever appearing to repeat himself. Each oil was a rediscovery of space and light rendered in his own ever-varied brand of chalky color.

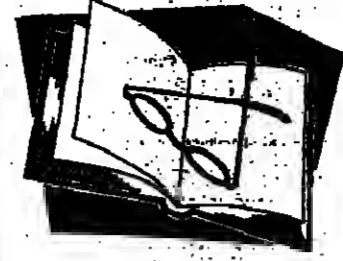
The Plazas, from Venezuela, began purchasing works directly from Morandi's studio in 1949. The works in their collection date from the early '40s to the near-abstract still life and include a number of Morandi's through-the-window landscapes and several flower pieces. This was the last occasion on which they could be viewed together.

A PICASSO oil of a man and woman reproduced in this column last week sold for close to its top estimate of £1.5m at Sotheby's London a week ago. A tree in autumn by Gustav Klimt passed its low estimate at £3.3m, while a Matisse still life was let go below its estimate at £2.75m, nowhere near a

hoped-for £4m. All the above went to private collectors while, as we predicted, a German dealer paid £683,500, well above its best estimate, for a magnificent Jawlensky portrait, also reproduced in this column together with a Blanc Reiter oil by Heinrich Campendonk, which sold well at £441,500, again to a German dealer. An early Kandinsky landscape passed its best estimate at an unexpected £529,500, paid by a private collector. At the first evening of this sale of impressionist, German and Austrian art, only 16 of the 24 lots sold, but their sale totaled over £14m.

## Top slang dudes give us the low-down

### Book Review



We all sling slang. It keeps the tongue loose. With slang, language has flair, spice, humor, sass, personality. Without slang, language is a long talk with Prince Charles.

Could we communicate sans slang? Sure. But would we want to?

Check this out: You can observe sudden turmoil, or you can watch "it hit the fan." You can be extremely stylish, or you can be "mackerelicious." You can ask for a cigarette, or you can bum a "lung-duster." And if you

a place you would look."

WHAT SETS Lighter's work apart from the numerous other slang dictionaries published over the years is that it is the first to employ a comprehensive historical approach.

While any slang dictionary can tell you "holy roller" is a disparaging term for a member of a Pentecostal church, Lighter traces the word from its first recorded use in 1841 when it was applied to a religious sect called Sweezites who were noted for rolling about on the floor.

Or take the 13 pages of citations devoted to the "f-word" in Volume I, the most extensive entry so far.

By following words as they evolve, Lighter is able to provide us with context, as well as insights into our history and culture. This, coupled with the actual slang itself, is what makes the *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* as entertaining as it is informative.

"Slang," according to semanticist S.I. Hayakawa, "is the poetry of everyday life."

are so inclined: You can hang, hang out, hang tight, hang loose, hang tough, hang up, let it all hang out or hang one on - in which case, a little hair of the dog may be in order.

"Slang," according to semanticist S.I. Hayakawa, "is the poetry of everyday life." But because slang is low-brow, it was pretty much ignored by the linguistic high mucky-doodles until the publication in 1994 of *The Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang, Volume I*. Written by J.E. Lighter, an English professor at the University of Tennessee, and edited by Jesse Sheidlower, a senior editor at Random House, the dictionary documented virtually every legitimate American slang word from A to G.

Volume II (H to O) was released earlier this fall, with the third and final volume due out in 2000.

Lighter started collecting slang as a hobby more than a quarter-century ago. Eventually, he began scrupulously documenting the history of tens of thousands of words.

Although language is his life, Lighter does not speak to the media. That task is left to Sheidlower, who shares Lighter's obsession for slang and is willing to explain how they researched the book.

"You try to read anything that has the likelihood of containing slang," Sheidlower says. "You look in dictionaries, glossaries of slang, counterculture novels, military books..."

"You also watch television, movies, jot down things you've heard on the street. Basically, you try and look in places that will give you slang. A Henry James novel, for example, is not

"Studying language historically not only answers questions such as what words were used in which era," says Sheidlower, "but also addresses deeper social issues, such as when black English began to have an impact on the language, or how indenting millions of Americans into the military during the 20th century affected the way we speak."

BUT JUST what is slang? "Our view is that you have Standard English and informal English," says Sheidlower, and slang is a subset of informal English.

"But it is hard to define. Our working definition is that it is nonstandard, nontechnical English composed chiefly of novel sounding synonyms for standard expressions.

"For something to be slang, it has to sound slangy. It has to be rhetorical punch."

Lighter, "neo-maximalist-dialectic" - defined as "an extreme nerd" - qualifies.

But so does a "John Wayne": "Someone who approaches a situation with great force and little deliberation."

What slang is not, however, is jargon, which is the language of a particular group, or dialect, which is regional.

Another characteristic of slang is that it is fluid, with new words being added all the time.

"Any dictionary is obsolete as soon as it is published," Sheidlower says. "We are always behind the times. I already have a foot-thick pile of index cards of words we use in the addendum."

Sheidlower's favorite word from the current volume? "Millihelen," he says. "The amount of female beauty needed to launch one ship."

(The Hartford Courant)

## The tip of the Antarctic iceberg

### Earthly Concerns



By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Researchers are a peculiar breed. They are interested in one thing and one thing only - the subject of their research. This was certainly the case of Bill De la Mere, a researcher from Hobart who was part of the Australian Antarctic Division of studies. But then something happened.

De La Mere was studying the whale catches around the edges of the ice-shelf of Antarctica. He was amazed because the place where he sat, just off the ice pack of Antarctica, was close to 65 degrees south, but he was reading a catch and a position that recorded the whalers in 1920 at the edge of the ice pack at 61 degrees south. He didn't know what to make of it.

After speaking to others in his section, he studied some 4,000 records of whalers from 1920 to 1996 who had all recorded their exact location and the edge of the ice-pack.



When he finished, De la Mere reached the conclusion that between 1920 and 1995, the Antarctic ice pack had shrunk by at least 5.65 million square kilometers. This loss represents at least 25 percent of the ice pack. That meant that this vast depletion had happened when no one was even looking. But this is understandable.

The ice pack around Antarctica is a wilderness - no special landmarks, no notations. Unless you plot the edges, you have no idea if

its dimensions are changing. And the fact was that, assuming that an ice pack is always an ice pack, no one ever thought to check its size.

But the researchers were preoccupied by another factor. By taking the positions of whaling ships and the location they reported, they found that the greatest dwindling of the ice-pack occurred between 1931 and 1957 and again between 1972 and 1987. The problem is that these changes do not correspond with anything we

now know about the depletion of the ozone layer or the effects of global warming. The scientists are now examining other possibilities.

Is this a natural phenomenon, somewhat like the advance or retreat of the Ice Ages? Is this an advance marine warning of other climatic changes? What is really happening here?

One thing is certain. About one quarter of the ice pack of Antarctica has disappeared. What that means remains to be seen.

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صناديق الاصل

# Beautiful bagels from your bread machine

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Japanese have driven the world mad with their invention of the Tamaguchi — the insidious electronic pet that beeps until it's fed, cleaned and amused by having its buttons pushed. But another Japanese invention — the bread machine — is not only practical but it beeps only when the loaf is ready.

Hong Kong and Korea have taken up the idea and are now manufacturing the bread machines *en masse*. The machines can now be bought here, and thousands of them have been sold in recent months. The sole importer is LDAM Trade Bread Makers Ltd., located at Moshav Tzofit in the Sharon region.

Until quite recently, many Israelis would have laughed at the suggestion of making their own bread. Standard bread was highly subsidized by the government, making it so cheap that it was used to feed livestock. Since then, state subsidies for most basic foods

have ended, leading bakeries to offer a cornucopia of specialized breads at premium prices.

If you love bread but don't want to pay high prices, or want to avoid the preservatives and other chemicals that commercial bakeries may use, you might want to consider buying a bread machine. Since we bought ours, we still have to go to the grocery for bread, but less often, and there is the bonus of the heady smell of yeast dough pervading the kitchen and the satisfaction of making something from scratch.

Married to a native Israeli who was raised on yeast-dough bread and cakes, but born in the US where baking a no-fuss torte is nearly enough reason to be named Mother of the Year, I hated the mess of mixing, kneading, waiting for the dough to rise, punching it down and again waiting for it to double its size and — worst of all — cleaning up the kitchen afterwards. When frozen *halla* arrived here, giving me the chance to bake a fresh *halla* on Friday, I felt like a saint, but to make my own *halla* or

cocoa-filled yeast cake seemed beyond the pale.

Before seeing it, I couldn't imagine how a bread machine managed to replace all the human toil. But it does.

It includes a detachable metal bread pan with a non-stick surface (additional pans can be purchased) and a detachable metal kneading paddle that's inserted in the bottom, much like the whirling blades of a blender. There is a single electric coil surrounding the base that does the heating and baking; it uses no more than 600 watts of electricity during the peak-demand baking stage (which takes about an hour), only 80 watts during the kneading stage and no power when the dough rests (which is much of the time).

The various options — for dough, basic bread, whole-wheat bread and quick bread — are chosen by pressing the "select" button as many times as required to show up on the digital screen; it would have been better designed if the options were listed on the top of

the machine in separate rows, so the user needed to click only once.

SHMRIT semi-active yeast, the most convenient form available here, is the best for use in a bread machine — much better than cubes of dry yeast. One may use white flour, whole-wheat flour, or cornbread flour; instead of butter, margarine is a realistic option and instead of the dried-milk powder required for some recipes, you can substitute *pareve* powdered "milk."

The loaf pan holds about 700 grams of bread, which is a bit less than a conventional loaf sold in the shops. The bread comes out in a rectangular shape, wider than store-bought bread. You can increase the amount of flour and other ingredients to make the loaf rise above the top, but make sure that the wet dough doesn't drop into the baking chamber around the bread pan. The liquid ingredients must always be placed into the bread pan first, followed by the dry ingredients that float on top. Scratch an indentation in the

dry ingredients to deposit the yeast so it doesn't reach the liquid before it's ready.

To make basic bread, you need 1.1 cups of lukewarm water, 3 cups of white flour, 3 tablespoons of sugar, 1.5 tablespoons of milk powder, 1.5 teaspoons of salt, 1.5 tablespoons of butter or margarine and 2 tablespoons of yeast. Press the selector button according to the type of bread (whole wheat takes a bit longer) and in three hours and 35 minutes you have a loaf of fresh bread. You can choose either a dark or light crust.

A plastic measuring cup and a tablespoon measure come with the machine. There is a timer that allows you to delay baking for up to 13 hours: put the ingredients in at night and there's fresh bread ready for your breakfast.

Once you've mastered basic bread, try carrot-orange, apple-sauco-cinnamon, multi-grain, oatmeal, milk, sour cream, pesto, cottage cheese, rye, apple oat, Italian wheat, *halla*, mocha java, bran, blue cheese and walnut, cranberry,

peanut, sunflower, nutty olive, pear, chocolate chip, honey or any other types of bread you fancy.

Since the bread cuts thickly into about six slices, the bread machine won't replace the need for bought bread if you have to make sandwiches for a lot of children — unless you make two or three loaves a day. The importer says the company in the Far East makes a larger version with a giant-sized bread pan, but since the price is NIS 2,500, it is impractical to import it here.

Any dough that shouldn't be baked in a loaf form can easily be prepared in the machine and removed unbaked. Then you just roll it out, shape it and bake it in your oven. I made an excellent chocolate-filled yeast cake this way; you can try the croissants, bagels and French baguettes. Another option enables you to make quick breads with baking powder instead of yeast: nut bread, Mexican corn bread, banana nut bread and honey nut spice bread are some of the possibilities. The machine also makes pre-

serves: For strawberry, merely put an equal amount of berries and sugar and press the "dough" selection. One can also make rice this way in 40 minutes, although it seems to me that cooking it on the stove would be just as good.

The importers enclose the original English-language booklet, but it is aimed at an American audience and doesn't take into account Israeli raw materials and tastes. The original Hebrew translation was very inadequate, poorly printed and confusing, but it has been replaced by a much better version that even advises how to cut the bread to get square, rectangular or triangular shapes.

Just don't go overboard and eat too much homemade bread. Perhaps the importer would consider offering a special deal and throw in an exercise bicycle for working off the excess calories.

The *RoboChef* Novac bread machine is sold for NIS 996 at The Jerusalem Post's book department and at other outlets.



A Tel Aviv firm is offering a simple system that allows people to design their own CD-ROM labels.

## Israel tops in hardware, too



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

The Israeli computer industry is best known for its excellence in software, not hardware. But now PC Magazine-Israel has credited an Israeli-made computer with a world record in performance.

Twenty Israeli companies, presenting 40 computers, took part in a competition run by the magazine and held as part of the recent Infoteck '97 exhibition; it was the second time that these tests were carried out in Israel.

There were four categories: Pentium MMX workstations; Pentium II (Windows NT) workstations; 3-D workstations; and notebook computers. The computers were all required to run a series of standard testing programs developed by the Ziff-Davis Labs to test the speed of the various computer systems.

The Pentium II (300 MHz) and 3-D computers made by Newtron and Contact — manufactured here by the EIM company (which has an agreement with the Intel Corporation) — came out on top.

The editors of PC Magazine-Israel criticized the tendency of Israeli organizations to prefer imported computers over "blue

and white" models.

"We are against giving denigrating labels to local manufacturers only because of unfair provincialism. We don't understand the awe in which some government decision-makers regard imported PCs," they wrote.

They added that "Intel-Israel can develop the processors of the future, half-a-dozen development centers belonging to international communications companies were established here only in the last year, and Israeli internet innovations can drive Wall Street crazy. So when one deals with the relatively simple technology for building a PC, suddenly the doubts begin."

### MAKE YOUR OWN CD LABEL

A Tel Aviv company is offering a simple system that allows people at home and the office to design CD-ROM labels. The *Espagull* CD-Labeler includes a computer program for designing the color labels, special peel-off paper for making 50 labels and a wooden device that helps you center the label on the face of the disk. Offices that store data on CD-ROMs can thus label the contents, while gifts of disks can be personalized with the recipient's name. For more information, call (03) 946-9589 or fax (03) 9491503.

### ON THE BRINK IN 2000

A collapse of state computer systems is liable to occur in 2000 due to inadequate preparations by government agencies

for coping with the new digits, according to Knesset Science and Technology Committee chairman MK Dalia Itzik.

At a recent committee session devoted to the computer problem, "a picture of neglect in all services, including the most vital," was presented, Itzik said.

To save memory in the past, computers were programmed with only the last two digits of 20th-century dates, thus, in the 21st, centenarians are likely to be invited to get vaccinations in family health centers soon after their "birth" and young people entitled to financial benefits will be considered "unborn." There are also widespread implications for the military and financial sectors.

The committee members heard experts note that irreversible damage to the economy could be the result of the neglect. It could cause an "administrative, economic and security catastrophe," she said. "The government must intervene."

All speakers agreed that the problems cannot be solved fully by January 1, 2000, and that the government would first have to choose the most vital computer services to reprogram. Although it seems a simple problem, Itzik said that fixing it is complex and very expensive.

The Knesset committee will follow up the government's preparations for 2000 through a new subcommittee headed by MK Alex Lubotzky; legislation on the issue is not being ruled out.

## Dr. Doolittle of the turtle world

By DONALD P. BAKER

The orange-and-white ambulance pulled out of the hospital driveway in Marathon, Florida, lights flashing, and streaked along busy Overseas Highway to a spot near the edge of the aquamarine waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where a small crowd had gathered.

Driver Richie Moretti and a volunteer helper scurried to the shoreline and enlisted the aid of gawking tourists to lift the injured, 120-kilo patient onto a stretcher and carry it back to the ambulance.

It was a typical run for the crew from the Turtle Hospital, whose "Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release" credo is emblazoned on the side of a van that serves as its emergency vehicle.

Moretti, an auto mechanic turned animal benefactor, is the founder and moving force behind the hospital, a one-of-a-kind medical center housed in a former bar in the Florida Keys.

The 53-year-old New Jersey native, who made a small fortune repairing Volkswagens in an Orlando shop that grew to 120 workers, cashed in at age 40, after being jolted with chest pains, and moved to the tranquil Keys, looking forward to a life of leisure.

"I came to kill fish and stayed to save animals," Moretti noted wryly. Although he has no special training in caring for turtles — his formal education ended after high school in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey — he employs techniques similar to those that made him successful in the auto repair business.

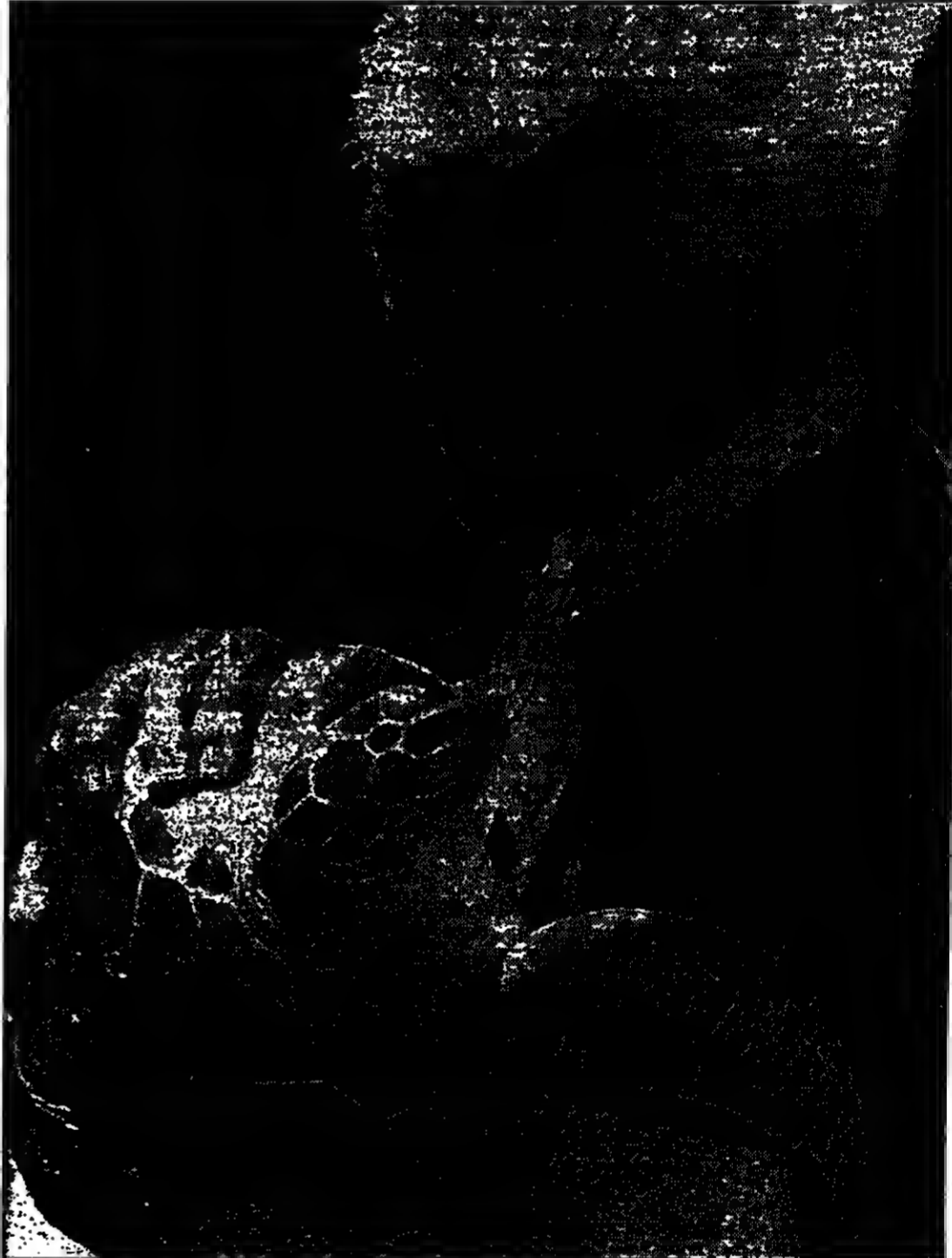
"The turtles come in broken, just like the cars did," he explained. "I used to hire the best mechanics; now I find the best vets, and instead of buying parts, we buy medicine."

Moretti's hands-on experience often causes his professionally trained friends to marvel at his inventiveness: When he found a small, rare turtle with a bowel obstruction, he fed it Metamucil and took it for bouancy rides in a golf cart until the problem passed.

The wiry, ponytailed Moretti and his hospital are known by turtle researchers around the world because "Richie just doesn't fix busted turtles and release them, but makes the hospital available for experimental work," said Larry Herbst, a veterinarian at New York's Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

Much of the research at the hospital these days has focused on a tumorous disease, fibropapillomas, that is threatening loggerhead and green sea turtles around the world.

Although no cause has been found, scientists say two suspects are man-made — global warming and pollution caused by agricultural and industrial wastewater. Tumors have been found on green



Turtles around the world are being threatened by a tumorous disease that scientists suspect is caused by global warming and pollution from agricultural and industrial wastewater. (UPIA)

sea turtles as far away as Brazil, Indonesia and Australia. But other turtles have been affected, as well.

Last year, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reported that 10 percent of live loggerhead turtles caught in Florida Bay had tumors.

The low-lying islands and reefs that make up the Florida Keys are an ideal location for gathering samples for the research because the carnivorous loggerheads thrive on fish in the Atlantic Ocean while the herbivorous greens devour the grasses in the Gulf of Mexico, two bodies of water separated here by only about 100 meters.

Moretti began to see the tumors

about 10 years ago. At first, the infected turtles had single tumors, but soon there were multiple ugly masses that covered the turtles' eyes, making it impossible for them to find food and dooming them to a slow, agonizing death.

On one day recently, tumors were removed from 18 of the giant reptiles at the Turtle Hospital. Moretti air-mailed the excised tumors to a lab at the University of Florida and then he began the yearlong process of nursing the turtles back to health.

"It takes about a year for a turtle to starve to death," Moretti said, adding that others turtles drowned from the weight of tumors on the back of their necks. The hospital's rehabilitation ward is a former swimming pool

filled with salt water from the golf.

Around the edge of the pool are a dozen smaller tanks, each occupied by one or two turtles either in the early stages of recovery or being raised as lab animals. Some of the turtles, which can live 100 years, will never leave the pool, because they are missing a fin or are otherwise vulnerable in the wild.

Others are returned to their natural habitat after a year under Moretti's care.

On those rare occasions, Moretti said, "I get the vet, the staff and anyone who helped in the rescue, and we go out, put the animal overboard and crack open a bottle of champagne."

(The Washington Post)

## Silicon Valley's innovative head-hunting reaches the sky

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN

Billboards scream "Work for Us," while employers make their pitches on almost every radio station and before the previews at movie theaters. Hawaiian vacations are given to employees who lure their friends away from competitors. California's Silicon Valley faces a shortage of technology workers, forcing fast-growing companies here to think up a surplus of creative ways to recruit them.

Now it appears that not even the sky is the limit.

At the annual football game between Stanford University and the University of California at

Berkeley earlier this month, three large technology companies copied a promotional strategy long used by local car dealers and plumbers: They hired biplanes to buzz the stadium totting banners advertising jobs. One of them, Bay Networks Inc., which makes computer networking devices, urged the more than 80,000 fans to "Score a Job" by visiting the company's Web site.

"Finding talent in the Valley is so tough that you've got to do something different to get noticed," said David House, Bay Networks' chief executive. Despite such stunts, Bay, like many other large technology firms in this area, still has "hun-

dreds of unfilled jobs," he said. The tech-worker shortage is "a major national problem," said Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America. The shortage is also showing up in tech centers such as Austin, Seattle, Denver, Washington D.C. and Raleigh-Durham.

His group has assembled a task force with the US Commerce and Education departments to propose solutions.

The IITAA estimates there are at least 190,000 vacant jobs in the information technology industry. For Silicon Valley, projections of the shortage's severity vary, but several experts and

studies have pegged the figure at more than 50,000 jobs.

In the communities a few miles north and south of Palo Alto, the worker deficit has been affecting some of the industry's highest names — including Intel Corp., Cisco Systems Inc., Netscape Communications Corp. and Oracle Corp. — as well as a generation of fledgling start-ups.

At Cisco, which makes the hardware that runs much of the Internet, there are 400 unfilled positions, said Barbara Beck, the company's vice president of human resources.

One of Cisco's recent recruitment tactics: targeting visitors to its Web site who are coming

from a competitor's computer system (monitoring equipment can make such a determination). "If we saw someone coming from one of our rivals, instead of showing them the page that said 'Welcome to Cisco' and listed our products, we routed them to another site that said, 'Welcome to Cisco, would you like a job?'"

Beck said. "If someone is aggressive enough to try to check up on their competitor, we figure we could use that person."

Cisco and other large companies have been recruiting heavily outside the area, using the Valley's comfortable climate and proximity to San Francisco as selling points. Outside competi-

tors frequently mention the area's high housing prices and seemingly perpetual traffic congestion.

Netscapes Inc. of San Francisco uses a tactic found at many smaller companies — giving stock to new employees, whose shares could be worth millions if the firm becomes publicly traded.

The tiny start-up, which has developed technology to reward Internet shoppers with frequent-flyer miles, pitches itself as a more exciting place to work than an established company.

Using options, the lure of stimulating work and at least 100,000 frequent-flyer miles as a signing

bonus, Netscapes' chief executive, West Shell III, has expanded his company from 15 people in July to 40 today, but he still has five vacancies for software engineers. Those unfilled jobs have forced the company to slow deployment of its software, he said.

And while Shell is trying to entice new employees, head-hunters are after the ones he already has. "I'm getting people coming into my office and saying, 'I just turned down a \$200,000 offer,'" he said. "That won't last for long. I know for a fact my people are going to get stolen soon."

(The Washington Post)

# Fighting for greater independence

Life has dealt Valerie Owen a difficult hand. The 26-year-old woman was born healthy in Beersheba, but at six, a genetic disease called progressive muscular dystrophy began to present its symptoms. She was condemned forever to sitting in a wheelchair and now is attached to a respirator every night when she sleeps.

But Valerie is a fighter. Moving at 17 to the Israel Association for Handicapped Children in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood, she finished high school and sought work. After insisting that she was qualified to become a telephone operator at Bezeq International's Narkiss Street branch — existing help from a disabled rights organization when company managers were reluctant — she was finally allowed to take a test and accepted for the job.

She met Simon Owen, a British male nurse who came to volunteer at the hostel, and after a while, they decided to get married. Now Valerie (who has two brothers disabled by the same condition), and Simon are moving into a Prazot public-housing apartment a few blocks away in the same neighborhood. But their difficulties are not over: Her job is not secure and the government's subsidy for disabled people living in the community is only half that of those living in institutions like the Gilo home.

Nissan Gali, a 39-year-old former Tel Avivian, was born with cerebral palsy, as was his wife, Rinat, who comes from Herzliya. Both seriously disabled and able to get around only in wheelchairs, they met at Ilan's sheltered workshop in the capital's German Colony and married four years ago. Nissan learned how to operate a computer and produces the Gilo home's printed materials, using advanced graphics programs in Hebrew and English. He is also a member of the elected residents' committee. Rinat embroiders quilts in the home's work room.

Valerie, Nissan and Rinat are not angry for being left out of the independent life we all take for granted. "I was born this way," Valerie says. "I'm used to it," shrugs Nissan, his eyes nevertheless showing a far-off look as if he thinks about how things could

There is a long waiting list for Ilan hostels and other facilities that provide support and activities for the disabled. On Tuesday, schoolchildren across the country will knock on doors to raise NIS 2.5 million for Ilan's March of Prutot campaign to expand its services, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

have been different. "There are some angry people in the home, people who don't do much all day except eat, sleep and watch TV, but we're not among them."

Asher Harris, a social worker who was director of rehabilitation for the Jerusalem Municipality and helped plan the Ilan home, has been its director since it opened a decade ago. The building is attractive and well planned: six floors facing a magnificent view northward towards Malha and the center of town, arched picture windows, pretty niches, 68 beds in single and double rooms, a gym, synagogue, kiosk, library and dental clinic. The Gilo home, built by Ilan and maintained by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, has an annual budget of NIS 7.5 million and tries to make residents feel at home. So far, the home — located at 30 Trvia and Yitzhak Street — is the largest of its kind. Ilan also maintains a 64-bed hostel for disabled adults in Netanya, a 25-bed facility in Jerusalem's San Simon quarter, and the Beit Tamar home for disabled children in Jerusalem. Named in honor of Tamar Kollek who has been very active in Ilan for decades, Beit Tamar is being forced to move from the shadow of the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza to a new site on Mt. Scopus because of road-building plans in the area. Ilan also hopes to build an 80-bed hostel in Kiryat Haim outside Haifa.

There are 150 seriously disabled adults around the country who are waiting for beds in Ilan facilities. While half suffer from cerebral palsy, others have spina bifida, multiple sclerosis or other neuromuscular disorders and need help

dressing, bathing, going to the toilet and in their daily routines. Some study outside, while the most independent have a job at a sheltered workshop or another place of work. Many families are Jewish and Arab residents) and a variety of other activities.

But it isn't like living in one's own home.

Among the things that residents do to keep busy are making spiral notebooks decorated by the disabled, painting, weaving, sewing and working on a computer. Residents face three major problems: the lack of suitable employment and of public buses equipped to carry wheelchairs, and inadequate accessibility in public places for the wheelchair bound.

Ofir Sbitzer, another Gilo home resident, went through Ilan's Ofakim kindergarten in Haifa, Ilanot School and Alyn Hospital's rehabilitation wing before being accepted to the Ilan residence. "At the end of my studies, I started to ask myself what I would do afterwards. I had hoped to find work that would give me satisfaction. I joined the occupational department in the hostel. It's a solution — better than sitting and doing nothing — but I can't hide the fact that the work bores me. I've been trying to find other work outside that I would like, but so far I've failed."

The other problem is transportation. The hostel has specially equipped minibuses that take residents to work or study, but the vehicles aren't available for single trips any time of the day or night. "Getting out at other times requires hiring a special van for NIS 40 or so each way, or a Yad Sarah "Nechoim" for NIS 20 in one direction." Only one resident — who runs the in-house kiosk — is licensed to drive and has his own vehicle.

Social worker Harris notes that Egged and the Transport Ministry

prepared plans for launching special routes for buses with lifts for wheelchairs that would pass through Gilo. But despite serious discussions, the plan has become bogged down, apparently because taking on disabled passengers slows down the bus.

The government has done little to ensure that disabled people can get decent jobs, even though there are tough laws in the US and Europe that allocate a certain percentage of positions for the handicapped.

Even if some workplace will give a disabled person a job, actually getting there is difficult, as most places of work are usually not accessible in a wheelchair. Dov Elimelech, the hostel's social



Residents of the Ilan hostel in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood run the local kiosk. (Brian Hendler)

in close contact with residents, and some of the rooms are impressively equipped with TV sets and stereos, which their families bought for them.

The staff are warm and caring, and they are assisted by volunteers from Germany and Denmark and religious teenagers doing their national service. There are trips around Jerusalem and out of town, swimming sessions in the Ilanot school, drama and tai chi classes, a newspaper, sessions with a psychologist and a social worker, parties to mark the holidays (for

coordinator, notes that on a visit to Germany, he noticed that the disabled there were aggressive in their efforts to obtain equal opportunities. "In some German institutions, the disabled see to it that even the psychologists and social workers who work there are disabled too," he says.

"Many of the disabled here are too passive. They should fight for their rights, as consumers do abroad, but it's difficult to teach such independence."

There is a washing machine and dryer on each floor of the home, and residents are required to get their dirty laundry together — even if they are unable to put the clothes in the machines themselves — to give them a feeling of independence. Some families resent this, saying everything should be done for residents, but Harris insists that teaching initiative is a healthier approach.

"These people, who have been disabled by illness, often from birth, have the most difficult time," he explains. "Soldiers who were disabled in military service get a tremendous amount of help from the state, including personal helpers who care for them at home. Victims of road accidents receive financial compensation from insurance companies and can hire foreign workers to help them. But these disabled have no such assistance," Harris concludes. "That's why Ilan is determined to help them."

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## How to watch television properly

**By Post Health Reporter**

I always placed my TV set at eye level for viewing. I have now moved it to a lower position, i.e. looking down at the TV.

However, this is not comfortable, and I find it a strain on the eyes. What is the best position for looking at TV — up, down, or at eye level?

R.S., Oranit.

Prof. Giara Treister, chairman of Sheba Hospital's Goldschleger Eye Institute, replies:

The best position for watching TV is straight ahead, at eye level or what we call the "primary position."

Moving one's eyes up and down or to the sides is less comfortable than moving the face and neck, and even this can cause muscle strain.

However, the angle of watching is less important than the distance between the TV set and the viewer.

It should be at least 2.5 to three meters away. It can be farther, but not closer.

The reason is that the eyes are strained less if you look at infinity — like the infinity range on your camera — instead of focusing for long periods on a closer object.

At infinity, your eyes don't have to carry out constant accommodation.

The amount of light in the room is also important to prevent eyestrain.

Having moderate light in the room will make the contrast better, but if it's completely dark, the eyes will become more sensitive to light and have to perform a partial dark adaptation; then the TV screen could temporarily blind the viewer. Having a soft light behind the TV is the best, while strong lights in front of the screen that reflect on it are the worst.

I have been instructed by my hairdresser never to use conditioner on my hair after shampooing (even after she has been used) because she says it thins the hair.

This advice seems to be contrary to what conditioners claim to do. Please advise.

V.K., Kiryat Bialik.

Dr. Dov Stempier, a senior dermatologist at Assaf Harofeh Hospital, replies:

Your hairdresser is wrong. Conditioner is a fatty film that coats the hair, temporarily giving it more volume and gluing split ends together.

It doesn't make hair thinner, either in the sense of causing hair to fall out or making it narrower.

The effects last a day or two or the next shampoo. Conditioner doesn't cure or harm anything; it has only a cosmetic effect.

I am a Jerusalemite and have recently developed an allergy to olive trees. If I move to another city, will I suffer less? P.A., Jerusalem.

Prof. Meir Shalit, director of the allergy unit in the clinical immunology department of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, comments:

If you're allergic to olive trees, it's better for you not to live near a grove of such trees.

But pollen has been shown to travel great distances due to the wind, so there is no guarantee that you will be completely relieved of the symptoms by moving.

Your best alternative is to go to an allergist for desensitization.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9327 or e-mail it to justie@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

## Czechs inadvertently nip the bugs in the bud

**By LAURIE BARRETT**

PRAGUE — Unlike its neighbors in the former Soviet world, the Czech Republic not only performs the job of infection control well, it does it better than the US and virtually all Western European countries.

The Czech approach grew out of the 1968 reform movement known as the Prague Spring and flourished in surprising fashion under the subsequent Communist dictatorship. Only now, under capitalism, does it face strong challenges that threaten to dislodge the Eastern European nation from its enviable status.

Many antibiotics that have been rendered useless in the US and former Soviet Union because of widespread drug resistance still work as well in Prague and the rest of the Czech Republic as they did 20 years ago. And some of the most worrisome forms of antibiotic resistance, such as vancomycin-resistant enterococcus, have never emerged in Czech hospitals.

"We are on an island, you could say, in terms of resistance," says Dr. Anna Jedlickova. "Slovakia and Hungary — all our neighbors — are much worse off." Although the Czechs were governed by many of the same health policies that were law in the Soviet Union, the country's microbiologists and physicians historically strived for a more science-based understanding of medicine, though Jedlickova readily admits the effort came gingerly

at first. But they saw the efficacy of antibiotics — the post-World War II miracle drugs — waning across their nation, she added, and knew hospitals were key sites in the spread of new strains of bacteria.

"In 1968 we had a slogan," Jedlickova recalls. "It is better to be a monster under conditions of totalitarianism than to be angry at the situation and simply wait until it is better." The nation's microbiologists, caught up in the spirit of renewal that permeated Czechoslovak life in '68, broke with Soviet policies and set up their own system. They didn't know what the West was doing to control new bacteria infections, but they realized the Soviet model was a disaster.

"We tried to read science journals from the West during those years. But I regret that we were closed. We couldn't have interactions with our colleagues in the West — indeed, with the entire science world," Jedlickova said. "The borders of Czechoslovakia were my prison bars." Cut off from the West, the Czechs invented their own unique system, one that appears to have performed beautifully. By law, all uses of antibiotics had to be cleared by a central microbiology lab, such as the enormous one Jedlickova runs at the University Teaching Hospital in Prague.

Physicians were required to submit sputum, blood or infected tissue samples to the laboratory for analysis, where the precise nature of the infection was determined. If, for example, the lab diagnosed streptococcus, the physician was told, "OK, it's strep. Here's a list of three antibiotics we want you to use." Meanwhile, the central laboratory in Prague periodically modified drug-use guidelines according to observed trends in bacterial mutations and resistance. The work is done predominantly by women microbiologists all over Eastern Europe and the ex-USSR has evolved as a women's science, probably reflecting the lower status it holds compared with other aspects of medicine.

Ironically, the entire system nearly toppled after the 1989 Velvet Revolution that overthrew the Czechoslovak Communist dictatorship. "Some doctors thought that antibiotic use policies were undemocratic," Jedlickova said. "They wanted to abolish the microbiology centers. But, fortunately, common sense won. Even the opponents to antibiotic centers started to understand that bacteria don't recognize democracy."

Now a new challenge faces Jedlickova and her fellow microbiologists: free-market medicine. The Czech government is easing its way out of nationalized medicine into a mixed economy of health care similar to the US system. This means private practices, managed care, health maintenance organizations and personal health insurance are all swiftly replacing five decades of Soviet-modeled socialized medicine. For the microbiologists, this means loss of control.

(Newsday)

## Environment hits men where it hurts

**Health Scan**

Men aren't what they used to be ... at least when it comes to sperm counts. Male fertility is declining faster than anyone thought, according to researchers at the California Department of Health Services. "I think this study will change the debate about sperm decline from 'if' to 'why,'" said Shanna Swan, the department's chief of reproductive research who led the study.

The US National Academy of Sciences had asked Swan to write the definitive report on the issue, which has been controversial since 1992, when researchers at Copenhagen University reported that sperm counts were falling around the world. Their announcement caused a flurry of debate, and studies published since have shown conflicting results.

In an interview Swan said that she had found a strong and significant decline in sperm counts in the US and Europe.

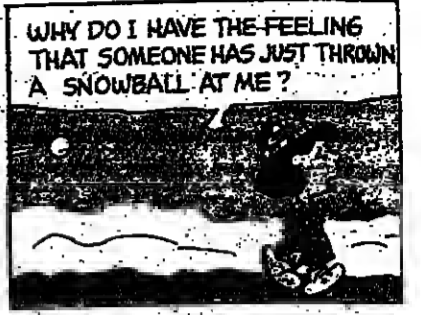
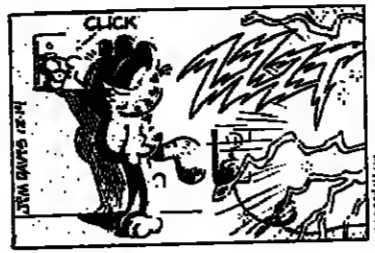
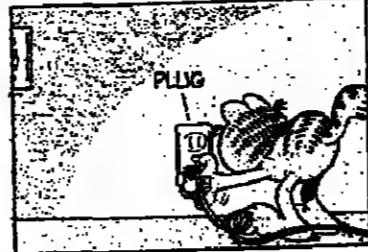
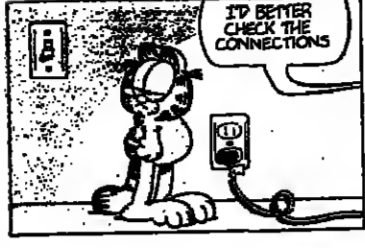
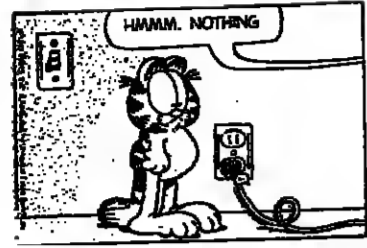
The US National Institutes of Health agreed, saying the analysis of data collected from 1938 to 1990 indicates that sperm densities in the US have shown an average annual decrease of 1.5 million sperm per milliliter of collected sample, or about 1.5 percent per year. Closer to home, sperm counts in European countries have declined at about twice that rate. Although Swan had expected to disprove the Danish theory, after careful analysis, she changed her mind.

She believes the cause is environmental factors, including organic pollutants like pesticides and industrial chemicals like PCBs. All have been shown to have hormone-like behavior, and like estrogens can either bring out feminine characteristics or work to counteract male hormones. They are found in soil, oceans and food, and they persist in the environment for a very long time.

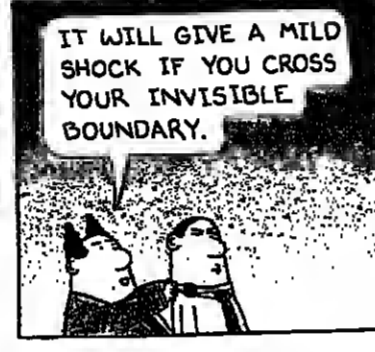
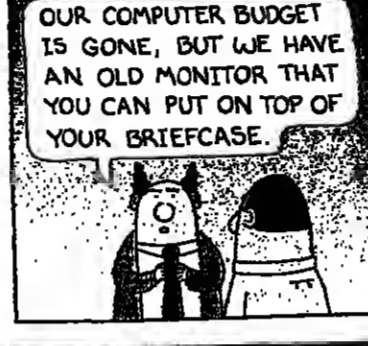
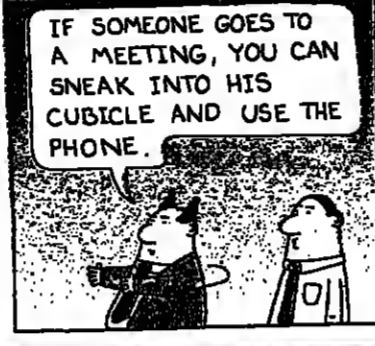
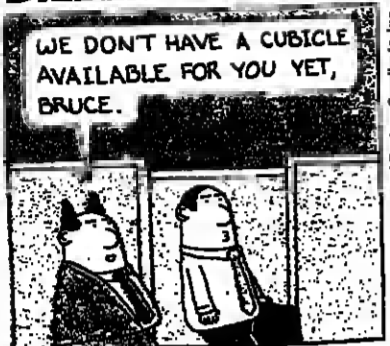
Swan said fertility was obviously not the big issue, as babies were still being born. "However, sperm count is a marker for testicular cancer, and if the reproductive system is affected, others will be also." A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found a doubling in the numbers of cases of hypospadias, a birth defect in which the opening of the penis is not at the end of the organ. Swan said she would also like to study a similarly disturbing trend in girls — early puberty. She cited one study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, that found 40 percent of black girls examined in 218 doctors' offices had breast development by age eight.



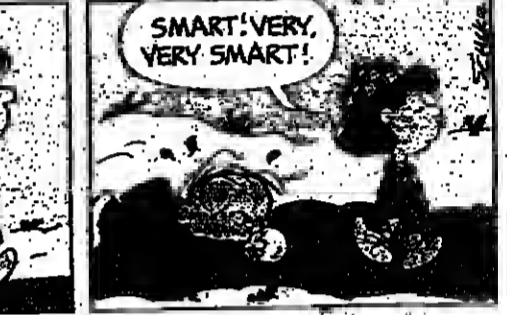




DILBERT



BY SCOTT ADAMS



Doonesbury G.B. TRUDEAU



FEIFFER

BY THE YEAR 2000, WE COULD BE FACING OUR 7th OR 9th CRISIS WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN.



IS HE HIDING NUCLEAR-CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?



WILL HE SUBMIT TO THE U.N.? DEFEY IT? PRETEND TO SUBMIT, BUT IT'S REALLY A TRICK.

TO FURTHER WEAKEN THE ALLIANCE AGAINST HIM?



AND WITH ALL THESE DELAYS, DEVIANS AND MANIPULATIONS, IS HE GETTING CLOSE?



TO A NUCLEAR-CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL-EMPTIVE STRIKE...

OH... IRAN?... ISRAEL?... US?

THANK GOD A COLD WAR SUBSTITUTE.

WE CAN UNITE AND BE A COUNTRY AGAIN.

CALVIN & HOBBES



SUDDENLY THE GROUND BEGINS TO SHAKE! A CLOUD OF DUST APPEARS ON THE HORIZON! IT'S A ZORG!!

OUR HEAD RUNS FOR COVER, BUT THE ZORG IS INSTANTLY UPON HIM!

SPIFF FIRES HIS BLASTER, BUT THE WEAPON IS USELESS AGAINST THE MONSTER!



THE FEARLESS SPACE EXPLORER IS TAKEN TO THE ZORG'S CAVE, WHERE HE DISCOVERS A VAT OF BOILING WATER! OH NO! OUR HERO IS ABOUT TO BE COOKED ALIVE!

SPIFF'S MIND RACES FURIOUSLY...

WELL? GET IN! DON'T YOU WANT TO LEAN WAY, WAY OVER AND TEST HOW HOT THE WATER IS?

Jeff K. Lito

## Inside

**Fouling Rodman backfires**  
Page 18

**S. Africa in draw with Aussies**  
Page 17

**Sports Editors**  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

**'I can,' says Nike**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — "Just Do It" just isn't doing it for Nike anymore. On New Year's Day, the world's largest athletic shoe manufacturer will introduce a new slogan: "I Can." Even though "Just Do It" isn't being abandoned entirely, the change is seen as a big gamble for a company whose advertising consistently ranks among the most popular and effective in the nation.

But Nike's sales momentum has waned. Fashion trends have moved away from athletic shoes to a more traditional casual look.

And professional sports — to which Nike is inextricably linked — has been shaken this year by a series of criminal assaults, gambling scandals and cases of substance abuse.

The negativism has included persistent criticism of the company's use of cheap, Third World labor to make Nike products.

**New Year's eve race to draw thousands**

SAO PAULO (AP) — Some 10,000 athletes from around the world will take to the streets of South America's biggest city on New Year's eve to compete in the traditional year-end St. Silvester road race.

At least 10,000 athletes — about 8,000 men and 2,000 women — from 15 countries will run in the 15-kilometer (9.3 mile) race today along wide, sky-scraper-lined avenues and through the narrow, twisting streets of downtown Sao Paulo.

Competing for a top prize of \$10,000, they will replace the cars, trucks and buses that normally clog and pollute this city of 10 million.

This year's field includes about 300 foreign athletes including the Kenyan athlete Paul Tergat, world record holder for the 10,000 meters.

# East beats West in Eurostars contest

**By ORI LEWIS**

The East team beat the West 129-107 in a blaze of color and fanfare at the FIBA Eurostars basketball extravaganza in Tel Aviv yesterday. The event, which FIBA, international basketball's governing body, inaugurated last year and has modeled on the NBA All-Star game, is intended to highlight the European game.

Although there was no Michael Jordan or Shaquille O'Neal at Yad Eliahu, the atmosphere was no less electric, as the cream of European basketball wowed the Tel Aviv fans. In an evening typical of some of the great encounters

seen at Yad Eliahu in previous years, the crowd, with their basketball savvy in evidence, showed their appreciation to all the players.

The event opened with a dancing display by some 350 youngsters, followed by a brief pyrotechnics display and the introduction of both teams. While in the past, the Yad Eliahu cheers have been reserved only for the players of Maccabi Tel Aviv, last night the 10,000 spectators were generous in their applause to both sides. Apart from the show and promotional element, the game was of minor significance.

Maccabi Tel Aviv had three rep-

resentatives on the East squad: Rashard Griffith, Oded Katash and Nadav Henefeld.

The two teams kept level until 3:30 in the first quarter when East coach Dusan Ivkovic replaced Dino Radja and Arturas Karnishovas with Henefeld and Griffith, at which point the East pulled away to a 41-36 first-quarter lead. By the half, the lead had grown to 73-53, with Karnishovas leading the way with 17 points. For the West, three players led the halfway stage with eight points: Predrag Danilovic, Aleksandar Djorjevic and Wendell Alexis.

The game became a more sub-

dued affair in the second half. By the third quarter, the East had a 100-86 lead and in the final period, it was clear that the West could not catch up, despite some very accurate shooting from Djorjevic.

Arturas Karnishovas was named the game's MVP, and Djorjevic won the three-point shooting competition at halftime, ahead of Guy Goodes, the Maccabi player who is currently with Caserta of the Italian second division.

High scorers for the West: Aleksandar Djorjevic 23, Vladimir Stepania 18, Predrag Danilovic 13. East: Arturas Karnishovas 19, Predrag

Drobnjak 18, Byron Scott 18.

East: 4-Byron Scott (guard, Panathinaikos), 5-Sergei Bazarevic (guard, T.T. Ankara), 6-Damir Mulaomerovic (guard, Cibona Zagreb), 7-Petar Naumoski (guard, Efes Pilsen), 8-Rashard Griffith (center, Maccabi Tel Aviv), 9-Nicos Economou (forward, Panathinaikos), 10-Oded Katash (guard, Maccabi Tel Aviv), 11-Gintaras Einikis (center, Autodor Saratov), 12-Nadav Henefeld (forward, Maccabi Tel Aviv), 13-Arturas Karnishovas (forward, Olympiakos), 14-Dino Radja (center, Panathinaikos), 15-Predrag Drobnjak (center, Partizan Belgrade). Coach: Dusan Ivkovic

(Olympiakos Piraeus). West: 5-Predrag Danilovic (forward, Kinder Bologna), 6-David Rivers (guard, Teambystem Bologna), 7-Gregor Fucika (forward, Teambystem), 8-Zeljko Rebraca (center, Benetton Treviso), 9-Zoran Savic (center, Kinder Bologna), 10-Aleksandar Djorjevic (guard, Barcelona), 11-Vladimir Stepania (center, Union Olympija), 12-Wendell Alexis (forward, Alba Berlin), 13-Alberto Herreros (forward, Real Madrid), 14-Antoine Rigaucaud (guard, Kinder Bologna), 15-Vassilij Kassev (guard, Alba Berlin). Coach: Ettore Messina (Kinder Bologna).

# Woods, Hingis voted as top athletes of 1997

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiger Woods has a smile that won the hearts of even non-golf fans and a game that matched outlandish hype.

With that combination, he pushed his sport to unprecedented popularity in 1997 and became one of the most talked about personalities in the world.

Woods, whose success on the course — where he won five times and set the PGA Tour single-season money record — matched his social and economic impact off it, yesterday became the first golfer voted Male Athlete of the Year by The AP in 26 years.

The athletes were chosen by a panel of US print and broadcast reporters.

The award came as a birthday present for Woods, who turned 22 yesterday.

"I thought I had a good year, but I never expected this," said Woods, whose record-shattering victory in the Masters last April was also voted sports Story of the Year by the AP.

Woods was the first golfer to be honored as Male Athlete of the Year by the AP since Lee Trevino in 1971 and is only the fifth golfer to receive the award since it was instituted in 1931.

He joins Gene Sarazen (1933), Byron Nelson (1944-45), Ben Hogan (1953) and Trevino in receiving the award. It is an honor never won by Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer.

Woods finished with 231 points in the voting to easily outdistance the NFL's Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders, who had 100 points, and boxer Evander Holyfield, third with 98 points.

Sanders joined Eric Dickerson and O.J. Simpson this year as the only NFL players to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season.

Holyfield lost a piece of his ear, but retained the WBA heavyweight title in June when Mike Tyson was disqualified for biting him twice.

Rounding out the top-five vote getters were the NBA's Michael Jordan and the NFL's Brett Favre. Baseballer Ken Griffey Jr. was sixth, followed by auto racer Jeff Gordon, baseballer Roger Clemens and Mark McGwire and ice hockey star Mario Lemieux.

Woods likely won the award as



much for his persona as for his performance. His enthusiasm, flair for the dramatic, aggressive style of play and ethnic mix in an overwhelmingly white game made him an almost unbelievable marketing package.

And he was the equal of the hype. Woods won the opening tournament of the year in dramatic fashion when he nearly made a hole-in-one on the first playoff hole at the Mercedes Championships in January.

He then took the Asian Honda Classic the next month in Thailand, his mother Tula's home-

land, where his arrival received live TV coverage usually reserved for heads of state.

His victory at the Masters in April was by a record-shattering 12 strokes and took on added social significance that put golf on the front pages because Woods not only became the first non-white to win a major golf championship but also did it at Augusta National Golf Club, a virtual symbol of racial separation in the sport.

Woods' father is black and his mother is from Thailand.

Martina Hingis

That Martina Hingis won The

AP's Female Athlete of the Year award shouldn't come as a surprise.

After all, she captured just about everything else in 1997.

"1997 was a dream come true for me," the 17-year-old tennis diva said from her home in Switzerland. "I still sometimes can't even believe it."

She won the Australian Open in January, then followed up with victories at Wimbledon and the US Open, three of the four tournaments that make up the Grand Slam. In the fourth one, the French Open in June, she suffered her first

loss of the year when she was upset in the final by Iva Majoli of Croatia.

The Paris defeat came after she underwent knee surgery after she fell from a horse for the second time in the year. An earlier fall in Australia didn't hamper her march to the year's first Grand Slam tournament crown.

Hingis was chosen with 92 first-place votes and a total of 363 points. Golfer Annika Sorenstam finished second with 20 first-place votes and 178 points.

Soccer player Mia Hamm was third with nine first-place votes

and 95 points, and basketball star Chamique Holdclaw received 8 first-place votes and 69 points. Basketball player Cynthia Cooper was fifth with 67 points.

Rounding out the top 10 were figure skater Tara Lipinski (66 points), track and field star Marion Jones (35), boxer Christy Martin (34), tennis player Venus Williams (25) and figure skater Michelle Kwan (22).

Trained to be a champion from birth, Hingis was named after tennis star Martina Navratilova. And in 1996, Hingis had the kind of year Navratilova had in 1983, winning the Australian, Wimbledon and the US Open, stumbling only in the fourth round at the French Open. Hingis finished this year with a 75-5 record, won 12 titles and earned \$3.4m exclusive of endorsements.

Vivacious and nearly always smiling, on and off the court, Hingis showed both a free spirit and a fiery tenacious will to win. When she wasn't riding horses, she would be rollerblading through a park alongside her mother and coach, Melanie Molitor, both of them unconcerned about potential injury. When Hingis hurt her knee before the French Open, she proudly spoke of going through the surgery, saying that now she could really say that she's an athlete.

No doubt Hingis benefited from the absence of injured Steffi Graf most of the year, and the inability of former No. 1 Monica Seles to regain her form and confidence after a series of injuries. But whenever that fortuitous absence of top competition was pointed out to her, Hingis confidently responded that she was on the rise and their time was passing anyway.

Indeed, Hingis became the youngest winner of the Australian, the youngest at Wimbledon in 110 years and the second-youngest winner of the US Open after Tracy Austin in 1979.

Hingis, who grew an inch and put on 15 pounds during the year to reach 5-foot-7 (170 cms), 130 pounds (59 kg), said her two most significant matches came in the French semifinals against Seles and the US Open final against Williams.

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## Former soccer great Finney knighted by Queen Elizabeth

LONDON (AP) — Former England winger Tom Finney is to be knighted and fiery Welsh striker Mark Hughes gets the MBE in the New Year's Honors List, announced yesterday by Queen Elizabeth II.

Often outspoken racehorse trainer Jenny Pitman, the only woman to have trained a Grand National winner, and Martin Johnson, the lock forward who led the British Lions to a series victory in South Africa in the summer, both will receive the OBE.

Tessa Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic javelin champion who appeared in her sixth games in Atlanta last year having first competed in Moscow in 1980, receives the more prestigious OBE to go with the MBE she received in 1985.

Jack Rowell, who stepped down as England's rugby union coach after leading the team to a Five Nations Championship Grand Slam, three Triple Crowns and a World Cup semifinal, gets the OBE while Scottish international goalkeeper Jim Leighton, set to play in next year's World Cup just short of his 40th birthday, receives the MBE.

Finney, now in his mid-70s, stayed loyal to his team, Preston North End, during an illustrious 13-year career which ended in 1959 after scoring 187 goals in 431 League games and 30 goals for England in 76 internationals.

Hughes, who made his name with Manchester United and also played in Spain for Barcelona, won four FA Cup winners medals, the latest with his current club, Chelsea, last season.

The OBE also goes to Squadron Leader Andy Green, who drove the Thrust supersonic car to a world land-speed record 763.035 mph (1,227.9 kph) or Mach 1.02 in Nevada's Black Rock Desert in October, .02 faster than the speed of sound.

Peter Goss, a racing sailor who turned back in heavy seas during a round-the-world yacht race to rescue fellow competitor Raphael Dinelli of France, also receives the OBE.

Although knighted for his music, Elton John is also owner of Watford soccer club of the second division.

## Weah under the knife

MILAN (Reuters) — Former world soccer player of the year George Weah had successful surgery in Milan yesterday for a herniated disc.

The AC Milan striker is expected to be out of action for about two months after the operation for the injury between the fourth and fifth vertebrae of his back.

